

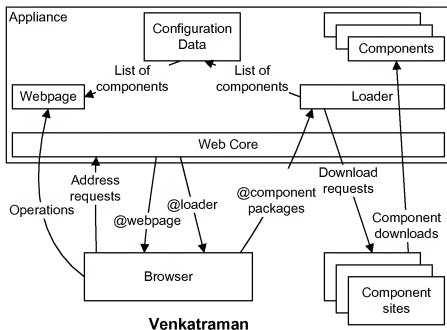
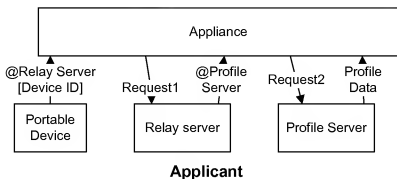
REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 5, 7, 9-10, and 12-25 are pending in the application.

The Office action rejects claims 5, 7, 9-10, 12-21, and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Venkatraman et al. (USP 6,139,177, hereinafter Venkatraman), Tan et al. (USPA 2001/0045451, hereinafter Tan), and Horn et al. (USP 6,862,612, hereinafter Horn). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The combination of Venkatraman, Tan, and Horn fails to disclose an appliance that receives a device identifier from a remote communications device, transmits data corresponding to the device identifier to an external relay server, receives a profile address from the relay server, transmits a request to an external profile server at the profile address, receives one or more user preferences from the profile server, and is controlled based on the one or more user preferences.

The Office action asserts that Venkatraman teaches an appliance that transmits a first request to relay server, receives a profile address from the relay server, transmits a second request to a profile server at the profile address, and receives data from the profile server. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Venkatraman's appliance does not transmit a request to a server and receive an address based on the request. Venkatraman teaches that the request is sent to the appliance, not sent by the appliance, and that the address is sent from the appliance, and not received by the appliance. The following diagram contrasts the appliance as claimed in claim 5 to Venkatraman's appliance, as taught at column 3, lines 20-53.



As is clearly evident, Venkatraman's appliance sends the addresses of the appliance's webpage and loader to an external browser; it does not send a request to a relay server that provides an address of a profile server as explicitly claimed in claim 5.

In like manner, the combination of Venkatraman, Tan, and Horn fails to disclose receiving, at an appliance, first and second access data from first and second remote devices, first relay data responsive to an external network server identified in the first access data, receiving a portion of first configuration data made accessible via access to the external network by the first relay data, receiving, at the appliance, second relay data responsive to an external network server identified in the second access data, and receiving a portion of second configuration data made accessible via access to the external network by the second relay data, as explicitly claimed in claim 9.

The Office action asserts that Venkatraman teaches receiving, at an appliance, first and second access data from a first and second remote device, first and second relay data, and first and second configuration data based on the first and second relay data. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. As noted above, Venkatraman does not disclose receiving, at an appliance, an address of a relay server that provides relay data that facilitates access to configuration data, as explicitly claimed in independent claim 9.

Similarly, the combination of Venkatraman, Tan, and Horn fails to disclose receiving, at an appliance, an address of an external relay server from a remote device, transmitting, from the appliance, a first request to the relay server, receiving, at the appliance, a profile address from the relay server, based on the first request, transmitting, from the appliance, a second request to an external profile server corresponding to the profile address, receiving, at the appliance, user preference data from the profile server, based on the second request, and controlling the appliance in accordance with the user preference data, as explicitly claimed in independent claim 14.

The Office action asserts that Venkatraman teaches transmitting a first request to a relay server, receiving a profile address from the relay server, based on the first request, transmitting a second request to a profile server corresponding to the profile address, and receiving data from the profile server, based on the second request. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. As noted above, Venkatraman does not teach sending a request to a relay server, receiving a profile address from the relay server, transmitting a second request to a profile server at the profile address, and receiving data from the profile server.

Because Venkatraman does not disclose sending a request from an appliance to an external relay server, receiving a profile address in response, sending a second request from the appliance to an external profile server at the profile address, and receiving data from the profile data in response, as claimed in each of the applicant's independent claims 5, 9, and 14, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 5, 7, 9-10, 12-21, and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Venkatraman, Tan, and Horn.

The Office action rejects claims 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Venkatraman, Tan, Horn, and Hanko et al. (USP 6,912,578, hereinafter Hanko). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 22-23 are dependent upon claim 9, and in this rejection, the Examiner relies on the combination of Venkatraman, Tan, and Horn for teaching the elements of claim 9. As noted above, the combination of Venkatraman, Tan, and Horn fails to teach the elements of claim 9. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claim 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Venkatraman, Tan, Horn, and Hanko.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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